

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has divided the originally filed claims of this application into eight separate groups and requests election of one of the groups for prosecution. According to the Examiner, the eight groups are as follows:

**Group I**, claim(s) 1-32, 61 , 65-66, drawn to a composition comprising a biologically active protein and a carrier which comprises a polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups, wherein the association between the carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent.

**Group II**, claim(s) 33-60, 62-64, 85-88, 89-92, drawn to a composition comprising a non-protein non-nucleotide biologically active agent and a carrier which comprises a polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups, wherein the association between the carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent.

**Group III**, claim(s) 67-74, drawn to a method of administering a biologically active protein to a subject comprising topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject the protein in conjunction with an effective amount of a carrier comprising a polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups, wherein the association between the carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent.

**Group IV**, claim(s) 75-84, 93-99, drawn to a method of administering a non-protein non-nucleotide biologically active agent to a subject comprising topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject the biologically active agent in conjunction with an effective amount of a carrier comprising a polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups, wherein the association between the carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent.

**Group V**, claim(s) 100-139, drawn to a composition comprising an antigen suitable for immunization and a carrier which comprises a polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups, wherein the association between the carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent.

**Group VI**, claim( s) 140-177, drawn to a method of administering an antigen suitable for immunization to a subject comprising topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject the antigen suitable for immunization in conjunction with an effective amount of a carrier comprising a polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups, wherein the association between the carrier and the antigen is non-covalent.

**Group VII**, claim(s) 178-183, drawn to a composition comprising an imaging moiety and a targeting agent and a carrier which comprises a polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups, wherein the association between the carrier and the imaging moiety or targeting agent is non-covalent.

**Group VIII**, claim( s) 184-191, drawn to a method of administering an imaging moiety and a targeting agent to a subject comprising topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject the imaging moiety and targeting agent in conjunction with an effective amount of a carrier comprising a polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups, wherein the association between the carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent.

In response, Applicants elect Group III for prosecution, which is readable on claims 67-74. The election is made without traverse.

In addition, the Examiner requests a species election from a list of species set forth in the paragraph that bridges pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. The Examiner further states that if a species with a chemical formula having subscripts is chosen, the Applicants are to specify the integers corresponding to the subscript.

In response, Applicants elect the species  $(\text{gly})_p\text{-RKKRRQRRR-}(\text{gly})_q$  and specify, for the purpose of initial examination, that p is 0 and q is 1. Applicants reserve the right to pursue additional species having different p or q values in a later stage of prosecution.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections to and rejections of claims, and allowance of this application.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3732, Order No. 13720-105068US2.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-3732, Order No. 13720-105068US2.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: January 25, 2010

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